

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harper House
other names/site number VDHR File No. 007-0233

2. Location

street & number 3029 Stuarts Draft Highway (US 340) not for publication N/A
city or town Stuarts Draft vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Augusta code 015 zip code 24477

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Harper House
Name of Property
State

Augusta County, Virginia
County and

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
AGRICULTURE	storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Metal
other	Wood, Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Harper House
Name of Property
State

Augusta County, Virginia
County and

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Period of Significance

Circa 1870 - 1940

Significant Dates

Circa 1888

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Harper House
Name of Property
State

Augusta County, Virginia
County and

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 1.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	673800	4211900	3	
2			4		

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	J. Daniel Pezzoni		
organization	Landmark Preservation Associates	date	September 22, 2005
street & number	6 Houston St.	telephone	(540) 464-5315
city or town	Lexington	state	VA
		zip code	24450

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	Charles F. Urquhart, III, and Mary Louisa U. Bryant
street & number	26026 Court Street
city or town	Courtland
state	VA
zip code	23837

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Harper House, located just outside the northern limits of Stuarts Draft in Augusta County, is an Italianate two-story brick house built ca. 1888. The north-facing house has a metal-sheathed hip roof with a bracketed cornice and a one-story front porch on highly decorative wood supports. The integral two-story rear ell was widened early in the history of the house; other additions include a mid-twentieth century two-story bathroom wing and a late twentieth century one-story ell porch that replaces a two-story porch (probably original) at the same location. The one-room-deep center-passage-plan interior features post-and-lintel mantels and a stair with a star-shaped cap on its lower newel. The house retains several historic domestic outbuildings including a workshop and a large meathouse, and also a large mortise-and-tenon frame granary, the principal survivor from the farm complex once associated with the house. In the yard are two small concrete fish ponds of oblong form. The property is surrounded by farmland with scattered historic and modern houses and farms and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the south and east.

Inventory

1. Harper House. Ca. 1888; ca. 1900; ca. 1940. Contributing building.
2. Meathouse. Late 19th c. Contributing building.
3. Workshop. Late 19th c. Contributing building.
4. Garage. 1st half 20th c. Contributing building.
5. Windmill support. Early 20th c. Contributing structure.
6. Granary. Late 19th c. Contributing building.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Description (continued)

House Exterior

The Harper House is constructed of brick laid in Flemish variant 4:1 and 5:1 American bond. Penciling survives on many mortar joints. The mid-twentieth century bathroom wing on the east end of the front part of the house is constructed of random American bond and has a partial (or partially visible) concrete foundation. The two brick chimneys that rise from the interior of the front section and the one that rises from the interior of the ell have corbelled caps. The wood cornice at the top of the walls has paired sawn brackets and unusual channeling or linear indentations on the soffits. The front section, the ell, and the early two-story enlargement on the east side of the ell all have the same bracket and soffit details; the bathroom wing has a plain wood cornice and soffit.

The principal decorative feature of the house is the front porch, which has supports constructed of scantling with gaps between the members creating a vertically striped effect. At the top of the supports are molded caps and sawn brackets and between them are sawn balustrades with a stylized vasiform repeat. The cornice of the hip porch roof has small paired brackets aligned with the supports. The porch also has a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling, a wood floor, and brick footers. The porch shelters the centered front entry, which has a transom and sidelights, heavy carved brackets between the sections of the transom, and a four-panel door. The house has two other porches. The one-story porch that extends along the west side of the ell has a shed roof, square posts, a metal railing, a plywood ceiling, and cinder block footers. It replaces a two-story porch at the same location. (The bottom tier of this former porch, which was destroyed in a storm in the late twentieth century, had cornice brackets similar to ones elsewhere on the house.) On the east side of the ell is a smaller one-story porch with a W-pattern lattice railing and a weatherboarded pantry enclosure. This porch may be a reduction of the original porch on this side of the ell, which would have been mostly removed when the ell addition was made. Key stains on the presently exposed studs inside the pantry indicate a former plaster-and-lath finish, although it is possible the studs were reused from another context. The weatherboards are attached with wire nails suggesting the pantry was created about 1900 or the early decades of the twentieth century. Adjacent to this porch is a concrete platform that covers a cistern that is no longer in use.

The windows in the original section of the house and the early ell addition are two-over-two sash, those on the front section with louvered shutters. The bathroom wing has nine-over-nine windows and there are small four-light windows in the pantry and on the west side of the ell basement under the porch. The basement windows are in front of iron rod barred vents. The second-story front elevation window is flanked by narrow one-over-one sashes, reflecting the three-part form of the entry and sidelights below. The entries on the west side of the ell have four-panel doors with the upper panels glazed.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Description (continued)

House Interior

Typical interior finishes include plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, simply molded baseboards, and four-panel doors with porcelain knobs and decorative butt hinges. The doors (as well as most other woodwork) have light-colored modern paint, although at least one door shows earlier dark brown paint where the modern paint has chipped. The original door and window openings have molded surrounds, the molding profiles different on the first and second floors, and the openings are slightly splayed where they pass through exterior walls. The front entry surround is crosssetted. The principal stair is located in the center passage and has one run with a complex modified landing or partial run at the top. The newel at the foot of the stair and the ovoid-section hand rail appear to be walnut, the risers are walnut stained, and the other stair elements are painted. The newel has a heavy turned form and is capped by a relief carving of a five-pointed star. The balusters are turned, the spandrel is finished with panels that grow successively taller as the stair rises, and the closet under the stair was refinished in the twentieth century. The landing at the top of the stair provides access to the second-floor center passage, the main room on the second floor of the ell, and a short hallway created to provide access to the bathroom wing.

The late Greek Revival post-and-lintel mantels are very similar in form throughout the house but have subtle variations. The mantels, six in all, have narrow pilasters with molded caps and bases and slightly projecting panels on their faces. The pilasters perch on decorative base blocks that have shoulders with angular, convexly curved, or concavely curved profiles. The mantel shelves have varied corner treatments, with convex or concave curves in three or more profiles. The mantels in the two front second-floor rooms are smaller than the mantels in the rooms below. Some hearths have been replaced with wood floor boards; the hearth in the main second-floor ell room is concrete scored to simulate brick and painted dark gray. Next to the mantel in the first-floor east front room is a press with paneled doors with decorative latches and partly removed shelves. The floor boards at the center of this room are unpainted, indication of an original carpet or mat floor covering. The floors of the second-floor west front room and the second-floor ell addition also have unpainted center areas of square or rectangular form.

The present kitchen at the south end of the first floor of the ell probably occupies the location of an original kitchen. The kitchen may once have had a mantel like others in the house. The kitchen has a corner winder stair, mostly enclosed, that leads to the room above and also, formerly, to the basement. Access to the stair is through a batten door with a simple lift latch. The kitchen has ca. 1970s cabinets and paneling; similar paneling covers the walls of the second-floor east front room. The first-floor room in the ell addition, known to the Harper family as the "office," has a brick stove flue that begins two or three feet above the floor. Wrapping around the flue at about four feet above

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Description (continued)

the floor is a shelf with convex curved corners supported on carved brackets. The outer wall of the room is lined with book cases. Other interior features include several second-floor closets with decorative wire clothes hooks, remnants of conventional floral or other pattern twentieth century wallpaper in some second-floor spaces, and doorways cut into the southeast corner of the first-floor front west room to provide access to the rear of the center passage and the ell.

The basement extends only under the ell and ell addition. It is entered by steps from the exterior at the south end—a gabled bulkhead formerly covered the steps—and through a batten door painted red and secured by a wrought iron hook. The two basement rooms under the ell have parged walls, dirt floors, and cut-nailed cross bracing between the ceiling joists. Next to the chimney breast in the north room is a crude built-in cabinet. It is unclear whether there were functional fireplaces in the two rooms. The space under the ell addition, which has white-painted brick walls, was used for processing milk during the early twentieth century. The ceiling joists in this space are smaller in section than those in the rest of the basement.

Outbuildings

The domestic outbuildings stand in a row to the east of the house and are described here from north to south. They are one-story frame buildings with metal-sheathed gable roofs. The meathouse has weatherboard siding painted red and attached with cut nails, parged brick and stone footers, and a batten door on the west gable end. The hewn sills and circular-sawn floor joists visible under the building have a furry and bleached appearance typical of salt damage from meat curing. The pegged mortise-and-tenon structure is exposed on the interior and has brick nogging up to about four feet above floor level. There are alternating log pole and sawn rafters that butt at a ridge board. Scantling racks for hanging meat are suspended from the rafters.

The workshop is a story-and-a-half building with a raised limestone foundation containing a working basement. The weatherboard siding, which was once painted red, is attached with cut nails with almost circular augmented heads. On the east gable end is a broad stone chimney that rises only to the top of the stone foundation; above that point are stepped brick shoulders and a brick stack that rises above the roof. There is a rectangular section of brick wall behind the shoulders, as tall as the shoulders. The windows have six-over-six sashes. Concrete steps on the west side lead down to the basement entry. In the basement, which may have functioned in part as a summer kitchen, is a combination of circular-sawn and whitewashed hewn ceiling joists, a deteriorated fireplace with a brick lining, and a long parged brick and stone platform in the southwest corner that may once have supported wash pots (suggesting use of the space as a laundry as well). The main level of the building has two rooms. The west room, which has an entry at the northwest corner, has exposed wall structure (circular-sawn studs), a work table, and a stair without risers. The east room has

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Description (continued)

horizontal flush board walls and a mantel-less brick fireplace with an iron lintel. The doorway in the partition between the two rooms formerly had a door hung on butt hinges. The unfinished garret has circular-sawn common rafters that butt at a ridge board. The workshop, although structurally sound, is suffering from cosmetic deterioration. Off the west end of the workshop is a tapered four-sided metal windmill support on a concrete platform. The pipe under the support is stamped "No. 1 FIG 975." The windmill vanes are missing.

The garage has vertical board siding, wire-nailed circular-sawn construction, and an open south side into which vehicles can be driven. Reused timbers may have been used in its construction. The garage was originally an open-sided wood shed that was also used for sharpening tools (a grindstone was set up inside) and storing apple orchard cutting tools.

To the south of the garage stands the granary, so named by the family, which functioned for grain and corn storage, as a shelter for equipment and animals, and possibly also for miscellaneous farm tasks. The variety of uses helps to explain the size of the building, which is larger than most buildings used exclusively as granaries during the era. The weatherboarded frame building is covered by a corrugated metal gable roof and stands on limestone footers. Large framing members like the hewn plates and circular-sawn principal uprights have pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. In the south gable is a rectangular vent that was formerly louvered. The building is roughly symmetrical in plan with a center threshing floor entered at the north and south ends and flanked by grain bins and a corncrib. The north-facing front has large vertical board doors hung on big iron strap hinges. There may have been matching doors at the south end of the threshing floor. The height of the door opening at the south end has been lowered. The threshing floor has a board floor and is spanned by hewn and circular-sawn joists. The corncrib on the west side of the threshing floor has horizontal slats with wide gaps, hinged hatches for loading corn into the crib along the top, and slatted and batten doors at the bottom. The opposite west side of the crib has vertical slats; the slats on both sides are attached with cut nails with very shallow augmented heads. Running above the grain bins on the east side of the threshing floor is more slatting. The equipment storage area on the west side of the barn formerly had a wood floor and has a concrete pad at its south end. This area was used as a garage in the mid-twentieth century. The matching area on the east side of the barn was extended in the early twentieth century; the shed addition has standing-seam metal roofing and a concrete foundation. This area was used to shelter sows and piglets in the mid-twentieth century and adjoined a hog lot. The granary is in poor condition, although its core structure appears relatively sound.

Integrity Statement

The Harper House and its associated resources possess good overall integrity. The house retains

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Description (continued)

most of its character-defining exterior and interior features such as its overall form, plan, and finishes, the ornamental front porch, and trim, stair details, and mantels. The principal loss is the early or original two-story porch on the west side of the ell, which was destroyed by a storm in the late twentieth century, although the one-story porch that replaces it is essentially traditional in form and appearance. The property retains a fairly complete complement of domestic outbuildings. These outbuildings are no longer in use and have suffered varying degrees of deterioration, but they are structurally sound and they retain their character-defining features. The same applies to the granary, the principal vestige of the historic farm complex. In the late 1950s the farm included a large bank barn and a tenant house to the south of the house and a complex of small chicken-houses to the east of the domestic outbuildings. All are now gone, although a ca. 1920 glazed tile block silo that stood at the northwest corner of the bank barn remains. (The silo is located at some distance from the house complex and is excluded from the nominated area.) The setting retains its traditional agricultural character.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Harper House is a well preserved Italianate dwelling located near Stuarts Draft in Augusta County, Virginia. Tax records suggest the two-story brick house was built ca. 1888 for farmer John J. Harper, his wife Sarah, and the couple's family. The salient exterior feature is a richly ornamented front porch with sawn and pierced woodwork that appears to be modeled on cast iron porch details of the era. On the interior are Greek Revival mantels and a stair newel carved with a star design. The house is accompanied by a complement of domestic outbuildings including a large meathouse and a building that may have served as a summer kitchen, laundry, and dwelling in addition to its later function as a workshop. A large mortise-and-tenon granary features a threshing floor flanked by grain bins and a slatted corncrib. The Harper House passed to George and Carmen Harper in the early twentieth century. George Harper was an educational reformer who helped modernize Augusta County schools during the first half of the twentieth century. The Harper House now belongs to Harper family descendants who are considering rehabilitation approaches to the property.

Applicable Criteria

The Harper House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a well preserved and finely finished Italianate dwelling with a number of notable architectural features, and also for the survival of the major part of its historic domestic outbuilding complex. Prior to the current documentation, the property was visited twice by architectural historians associated with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, and both wrote approvingly of the property. Dell Upton wrote in 1974, "This is perhaps the finest nineteenth century house along this part of the highway. It has the distinction of combining a handsome house with a varied and well preserved collection of outbuildings." Ann McCleary surveyed the property in 1981 and commented, "The farm is also noteworthy for its fine selection of outbuildings, all conveniently clustered around the back porch." The period of significance extends from ca. 1870, a date that reflects the possibility that some of the outbuildings pre-date the main house, until ca. 1940, embracing later developments such as additions to the house. The Harper House is eligible at the local level of significance.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals assisted the nomination, foremost among them the owners of the property, Charles F. Urquhart, III, and Mary Louisa U. Bryant. Assistance was also provided by Rebecca (Bryant) Lamb, Joe Huffman, the staff of the Augusta County Courthouse, and David Edwards, Joanna Evans, Jean McRae, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historic and Architectural Context

William Harper (ca. 1768-1841), the grandfather of John J. Harper, acquired land in Augusta County in 1800. By 1850 William's son Joseph Harper (1800-60) had acquired the land on which the Harper House would be built. Joseph Harper was a substantial farmer during the antebellum period. The 1850 federal census listed him as the owner of \$6,400 in real estate; a decade later the value had risen to \$9,380 and he was listed as the owner of ten slaves. After Joseph's death the property was left to his widow Mary (Polly) R. Harper (1810-75) and his brothers. Probate reported that the farm included 441 acres on the road from Waynesboro to Greenville on both sides of the South River. Harper family tradition records that Joseph's land included the draft of Stuarts Draft as well as the community's original post office, which stood approximately a mile to the southwest.¹

In the late 1860s and early 1870s Joseph's brother Samuel Harper (1805-84) bought the interests of his brothers and was listed as the sole owner of the property in the 1875 land book. That year, Samuel owned seven parcels totaling 441.75 acres. Two parcels had building improvements valued at \$200 each. Three buildings are shown at the location on an 1866 plat, and the 1875 Michie county map shows a dwelling at the general location of the present house. According to family tradition, a log dwelling once occupied by a member of the family formerly stood on the west side of the present granary. In 1876 the value of buildings on Samuel Harper's consolidated holdings was reported to be \$500, a figure that remained constant through the mid-1880s.²

In 1870 Samuel's son John J. Harper (1845-90) and John's wife Sarah M. Harper (1849-95) moved to the farm from West Virginia in order to manage the property for the family. Samuel Harper's will, dated April 11, 1884, and probated the following year, states "I give and bequeath to my son John the farm upon which he now resides." The 1888 land book lists John Harper as the owner of the slightly reduced (433 acres) farm, and a marginal note states "\$1300 added for buildings," a rise in value that probably represents the construction of the present house in 1887 and/or 1888. A ca. 1888 date does not disagree with the architectural evidence, although it is at variance with family tradition. John and Sarah Harper's son George Alexander Harper (1883-

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

1964) is said to have been born in the present house. Tradition also states that the house was built from bricks fired on the place.³

The Harper House is both typical and atypical of regional domestic architecture during the era. In its brick construction, symmetrical three-bay center-passage form, and Italianate and Greek Revival detail the house is not unlike other houses built for the region's more affluent rural and town residents. The secondary service stair in the kitchen may relate to the use of servants by the family. The front porch is a particularly elaborate expression of the era's penchant for porch decoration. The porch appears to belong to a tradition of decorative ironwork mimicry that became popular in the late antebellum period in western Virginia. An important subset of houses have latticed wooden porch supports that appear to be inspired by the delicate cast iron porch supports then in vogue in Virginia and other southern cities. Alternatively, the Harper House porch effects may have been intended to evoke the fluting of columns, or they may have been a *sui generis* technomorphic expression of the properties inherent in light milled woodwork. An idiosyncratic interpretation is bolstered by the star design on the newel post, which calls to mind the highly original architectural woodwork attributed to such nineteenth-century vernacular artisans as Thomas Day.⁴

The 1880 federal census identified John J. Harper as a farmer and an 1888 county business directory classified him as a principal farmer of the Stuarts Draft area. Of the once extensive farm complex only the building known as the granary survives in the nominated area. Historically the granary accommodated a variety of functions including grain and corn storage, farm equipment storage, and animal shelter. The center section of the building, which could be opened at both ends with its large hinged doors, would have been suited to threshing. Later the granary was superseded as the principal agricultural building by the construction of a large bank barn that stood until recent years beyond the south border of the nominated area. Another multifunctional building is the workshop, so named for its use by George A. Harper in the twentieth century. The raised stone basement is equipped with a large cooking fireplace, a feature that along with the building's proximity to the house ell, which was used for cooking and dining, suggests use as a summer kitchen. Other tasks such as washing that involved the heating of water may have taken place in the basement. There is a tradition that the upper frame levels were once used as a dwelling, presumably for a servant or farm hand, and those levels would in fact have been suitable for habitation.

John J. Harper died in 1890, leaving most of the farm and the house as a life-right to his wife. The property transferred to George A. Harper about 1905. Harper married Carmen Hicks in 1909 and the couple's first child, Dorothy, was born in the house in 1910. Carmen named the house Maple Shade, presumably after the large maple trees that fronted the property until they were removed by highway expansion in the 1980s, and the family referred to the property as Maple

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

Shade throughout the twentieth century. George Harper was a member of the Augusta County School Board for thirty-five years during the early and mid-twentieth century and for a time served as the board's Chairman. He was a leader in local efforts to upgrade and consolidate public school facilities and as such a participant in the statewide and national educational reforms of the Progressive Era. Architectural historian Ann McCleary's context "Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia, 1870 to 1940" (1984), the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office's first thematic National Register nomination, traces the architectural developments to which Harper and like-minded Augusta County educators contributed. In addition to guiding the transformation from one-room schools to larger and more modern facilities, Harper helped introduce school buses (essential to consolidation) and he assisted in the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Education Center. George Harper occupied the Harper House and farmed the land until his death in 1964; consequently local residents remember the property as the George Harper Farm. Today the property is owned by George and Carmen Harper's grandchildren, Mary Louisa Urquhart Bryant and Charles Fox Urquhart, III. For many years until late 2005 the house was occupied by a tenant, Joe Huffman. Bryant and Urquhart are considering options for rehabilitating the property.⁶

Endnotes

1. Mary Louisa U. Bryant personal communication; Bryant, "Harper House;" United States census free and slave population schedules for Augusta County; August County Will Book 40, page 37.
2. Mary Louisa U. Bryant personal communication; Michie, "Map of Augusta County;" Augusta County Deed Book 82, p. 378; Deed Book 88, pp. 352, 404, 454; Augusta County land books.
3. Mary Louisa U. Bryant personal communication; Augusta County Will Book 51, p. 190; Augusta County land books.
4. Little-Stokes, "Architectural Woodwork," 68-69.
5. United States census free population schedules for Augusta County; *Chataigne's Augusta County*.
6. Mary Louisa U. Bryant personal communication; Bryant, "Harper House;" McCleary, "Augusta County Schools," 28.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated area are depicted on the approximately 1:50-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are defined so as to encompass the Harper House, the principal focus of the nomination, and the closely adjacent historic resources that make up the supporting domestic complex.

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Harper House
Augusta County, Virginia

All photographs are of:

HARPER HOUSE

Augusta County, Virginia

DHR file no. 007-0233

J. Daniel Pezzoni, Photographer

All negatives are stored at the Department of Historic Resources Archives in Richmond, Virginia.

DATE: January 2005

VIEW OF: The house with the granary beyond. View looking southeast.

NEG. NO.: 22335:7

PHOTO 1 OF 5

DATE: January 2005

VIEW OF: From right to left: house, meathouse, workshop, top of the windmill support
(beyond the workshop), garage, and the west end of the granary. View looking west.

NEG. NO.: 22335:11

PHOTO 2 OF 5

DATE: January 2005

VIEW OF: House and granary. View looking north.

NEG. NO.: 22335:19

PHOTO 3 OF 5

DATE: August 2005

VIEW OF: Newel at base of stair.

NEG. NO.: 22336:3

PHOTO 4 OF 5

DATE: August 2005

VIEW OF: Mantel in first-floor west room.

NEG. NO.: 22335:2

PHOTO 5 OF 5